

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 SY-10 RSR-01 NEA-10 /105 W

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P 090830Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9409

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SEOUL 5278

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS, JA

SUBJECT: KIM TAE-CHUNG

1. ALL ROK NEWSPAPERS AUGUST 9 (EXCEPT KOREA HERALD) CARRIED SIMILAR BRIEF, FRONT PAGE ACCOUNT OF KIM TAE-CHUNG DISAPPEARANCE. IDENTICAL VERSIONS ATTRIBUTED TO WIRE SERVICES REPORTED THAT BOTH KIM TAE-CHUNG AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN KIM KYONG-IN WERE TAKEN BY FIVE UNIDENTIFIED KOREAN YOUTHS AND THAT KIM KYONG-IN WAS IMMEDIATELY RELEASED. ARTICLE QUOTED JAPANESE POLICE SPOKESMAN THAT POLICE WERE SEARCHING FOR ABDUCTORS AND CHECKING AIRPORTS AND HARBORS. ACCOUNT SAID KIM HAD BEEN LIVING IN VIRTUAL EXILE IN JAPAN AND THE U.S. SINCE LAST OCTOBER. RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS ALSO CARRIED STORIES BASED ON THIS OBVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED VERSION. TONGA ILBO REPORT FROM TOKYO SAID JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO THE INCIDENT.

2. AFTERNOON RADIO NEWS CARRIED REPORT THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT PRESS BRIEFING SAID THAT USG KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE MATTER
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AND THAT A KIDNAPPING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY WOULD

BE BASICALLY A PROBLEM FOR THAT COUNTRY'S POLICE.
NEWS REPORTER SAID THIS COMMENT "APPEARED TO
INDICATE THAT THE USG HAS NO INTEREST IN THE
MATTER."

3. OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY SPOKESMAN
DECLINED TO COMMENT ON GROUNDS THE NDP DOES
NOT KNOW THE FACTS
OF THE CASE. DEMOCRATIC UNIFICATION
PARTY SPOKESMAN SAID "IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT
INCIDENT OCCURED AFTER KIM TAE-CHUNG MET WITH
OUR PARTY'S LEADER YDANG IL-DONG AND ASSEMBLYMAN
KIM KHONG-IN. WE URGE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO
INVESTIGATE THOROUGHLY TO REVEAL ALL THE FACTS
OF THE CASE TO CLEAR UP THE PEOPLE'S DOUBTS."

4. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER YUN SOK-HON ANNOUNCED
THAT HE HAD CALLED JAPANESE AMBASSADOR USHIROKU
TO HIS OFFICE AND URGED THAT JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE PROTECTION FOR THE SAFETY
OF KIM TAE-CHUNG. EARLIER, RADIO NEWS HAD REPORTED THAT
AMBASSADOR USHIROKU HAD CALLED
ON YUN AT USHIROKU'S INITIATIVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SEOUL05278
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730847/aaaabitq.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Oct-2001 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIM TAE-CHUNG
TAGS: PINT, KS, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005